



## Discover Nature Schools (DNS) Science Fair 2016 Submission Criteria, Checklist, and Timeline

1. Student entrants must be currently enrolled in a school teaching a DNS unit and students must have completed all or part of a DNS unit by the time their project is submitted for the DNS science fair.
2. All project entries must demonstrate connection to at least one DNS activity. DNS does not have to be specifically referenced in the project, but the connections to DNS must be explained in the log book or entry form.
3. Entries must be submitted in electronic form by email. Physical display boards cannot be entered. Photos may be in a PowerPoint, but a slide show format is not required. A maximum of 20 photos is allowed.
4. Entries must meet all criteria for display rules and safety guidelines listed at <http://www.sciencefairstl.org/students/elementary-k-5>. An exhibit card or safety form is not required.
5. Entries may be classified in any of the project categories listed at <http://www.sciencefairstl.org/students/elementary-k-5/project-categories>
6. Entries will be judged according to the DNS Science Fair 2016 Scoring Rubric found at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/19569>
7. Only teachers, administrators, or parents may submit entries. Entries submitted by students will not be accepted.
8. Each school may submit up to four entries for each DNS unit taught at that school. For example, if a school is currently teaching two DNS units, up to eight entries may be submitted by that school though only four entries are allowed under each DNS unit.
9. Projects may be entered in any of four categories according to the grade level of the entering student:
  - Primary (grades K-2)
  - Elementary (grades 3-5)
  - Middle School (grades 6-8)
  - High School (grades 9-12)
10. Projects entered in other science fairs may also be eligible to be judged in the DNS science fair, but participation or entry in science fairs other than the DNS science fair is not required.
11. The logbook is a record of work on the student's project and is required. It may be typed in a word document or handwritten and scanned. Include the student's name and school in each logbook. Tips for a top quality logbook and a sample logbook are found at <http://www.sciencefairstl.org/students/elementary-k-5/your-logbook>.

12. Required project entry documents must be submitted in electronic form by email to your local MDC Education Consultant (EC). EC email addresses may be found at <http://mdc.mo.gov>. Click on the Education tab and enter your county in the “Who’s My Local Contact?” box.

13. A separate entry form must accompany each entry. Entry forms may be found at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/19569>

14. Several students in the same grade-level category may collaborate to produce a single entry.

### Checklist of Required Project Entry Documents

- ✓ Entry form
- ✓ Photos of project
- ✓ Logbook

### Timeline

- **January 1, 2016 to April 1, 2016 = Round 1.** Round 1 is judged at school by DNS teachers, and up to four winners are selected. Teachers may submit up to four entries per school for each DNS unit taught at that school. Round 1 winners will receive ribbons when teachers send winning entries to the ECs by April 1, 2016.
- **April 1 to April 15 = Round 2.** Round 2 will be judged by ECs who will select one winner per category for each of eight MDC regions. Regional finalists will receive medals provided by MDC and sent to the students’ schools by education staff in Jefferson City. There will be up to 32 regional finalists.
- **April 15 to May 1 = Round 3.** Round 3 will be judged by education staff in Jefferson City who will select one winner per grade-level category for the state.
- **By May 1 = State winners announced.** The four state winners will each receive an individual plaque, a plaque for their school, and \$250 worth of equipment used to deliver DNS at their school. The equipment will be based on the individual needs of the classroom and the applicable DNS unit